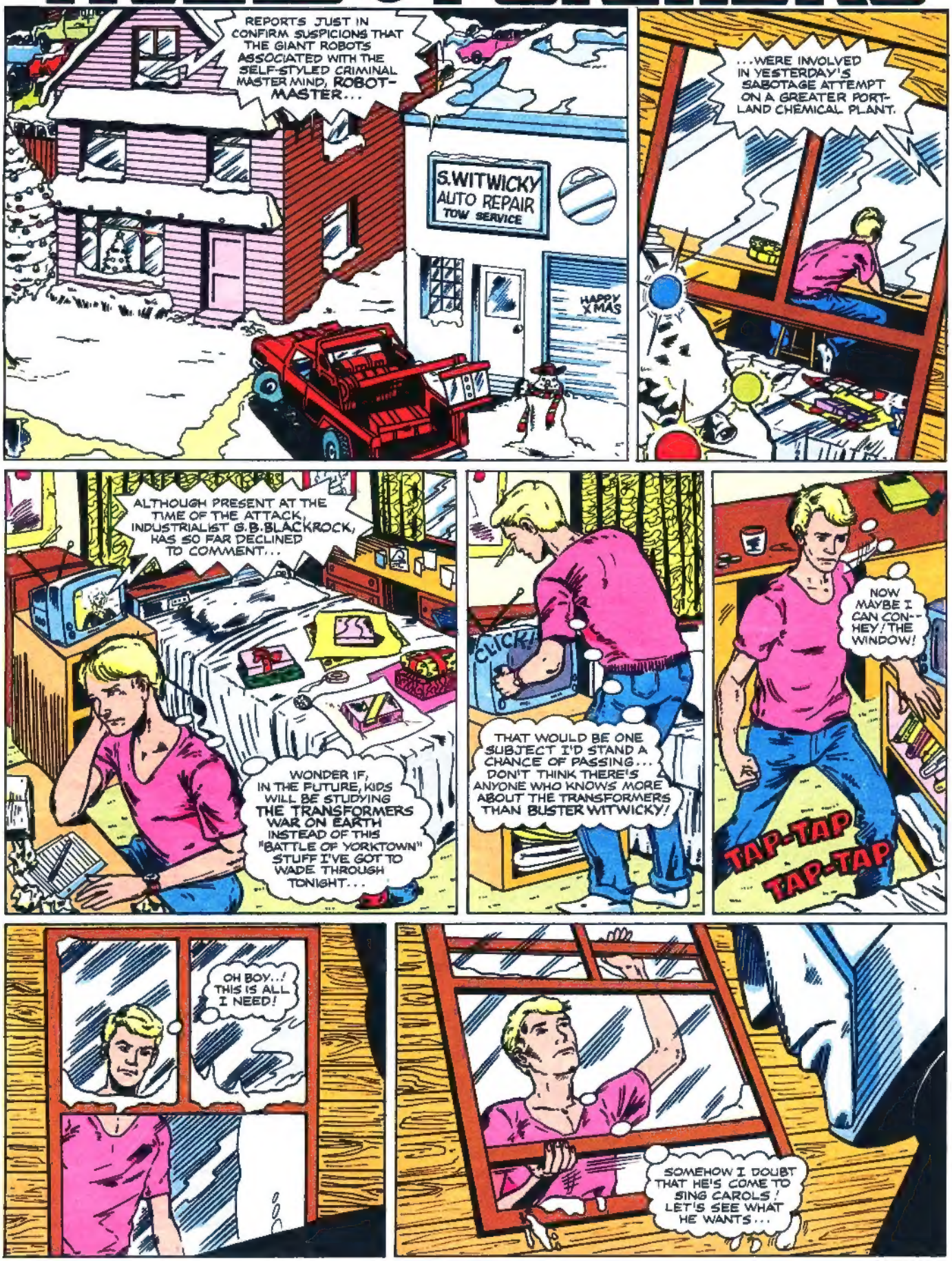
MARVEL™

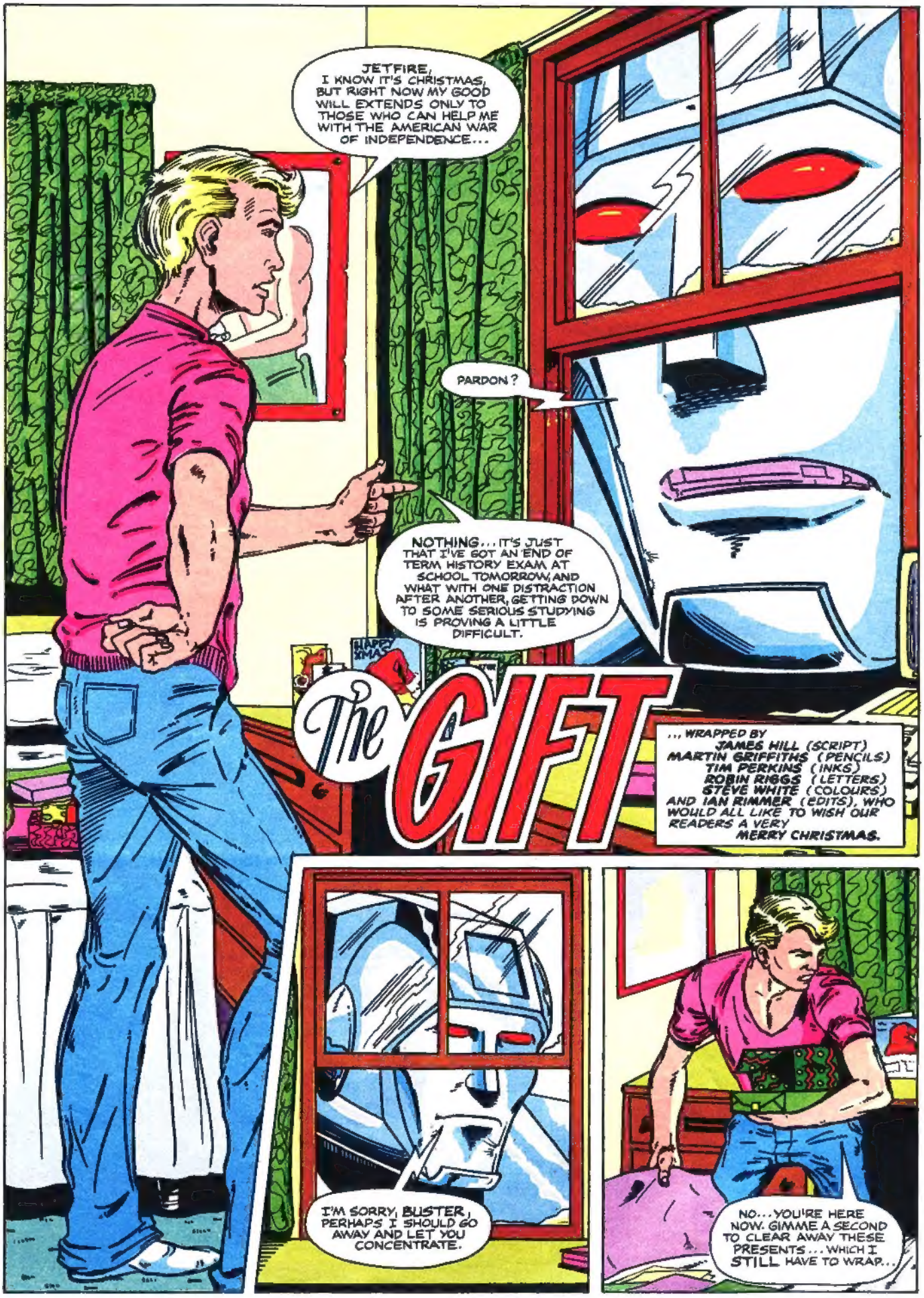
27th Dec.86
No93 30p

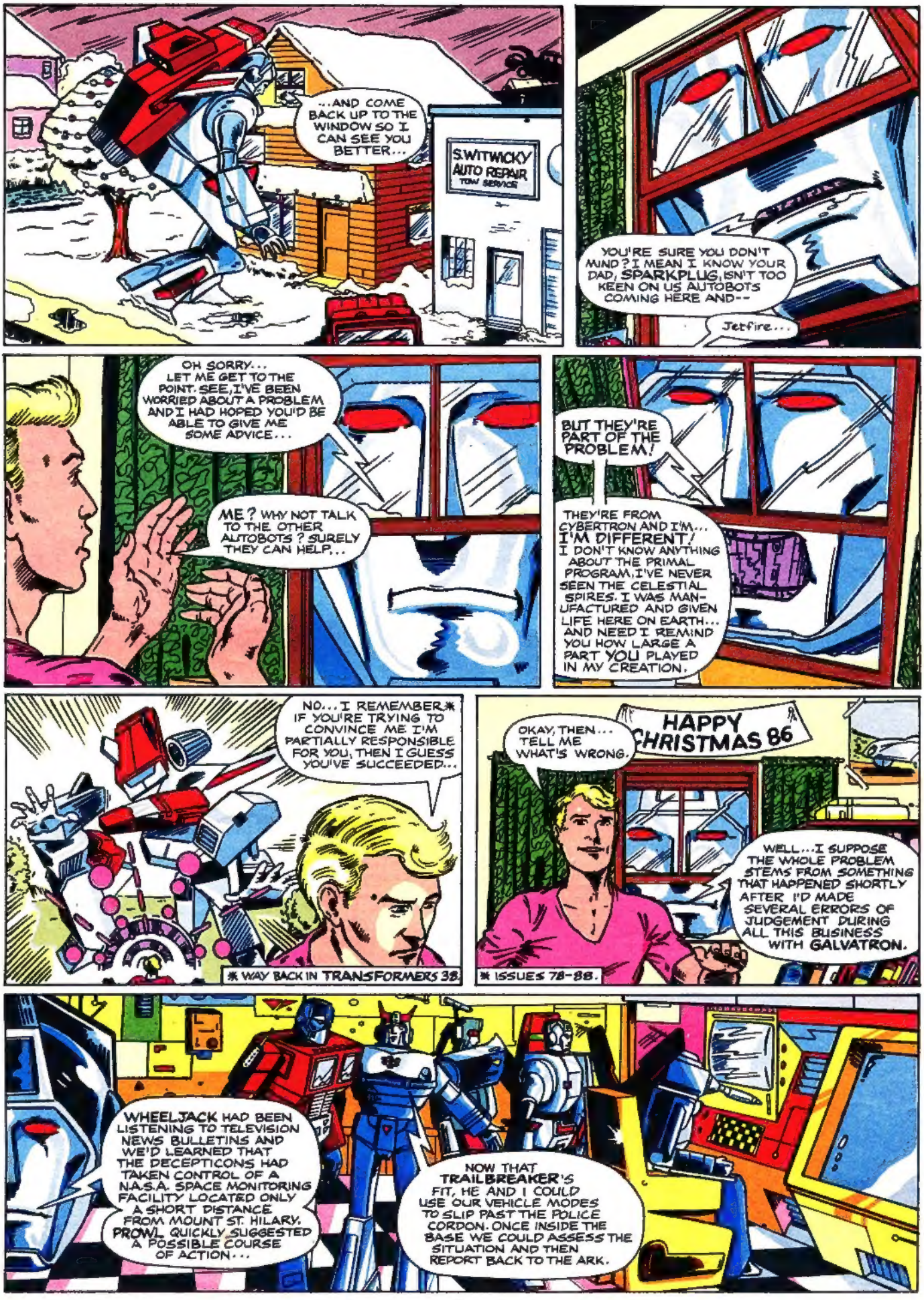
THE TRANSFORMERS™

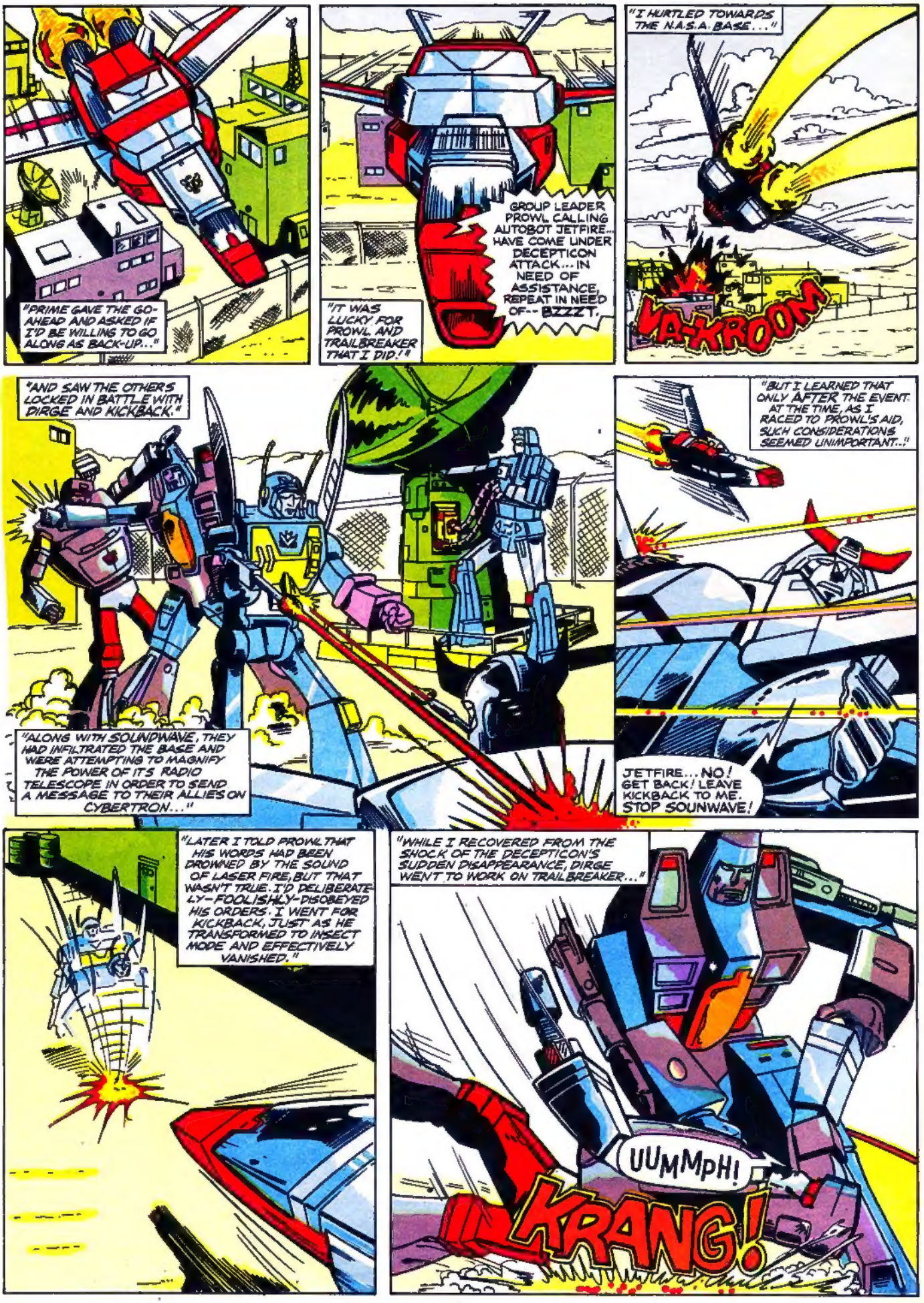
HEROIC AUTOBOT

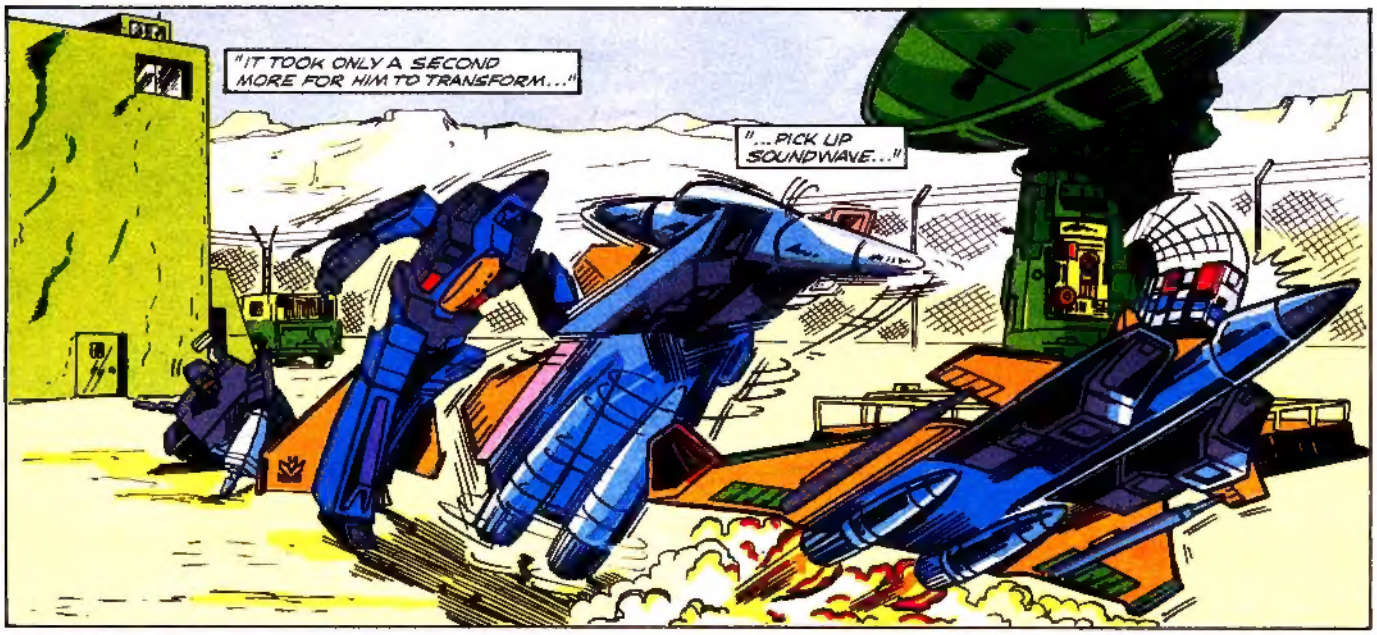
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM GALVATRON...

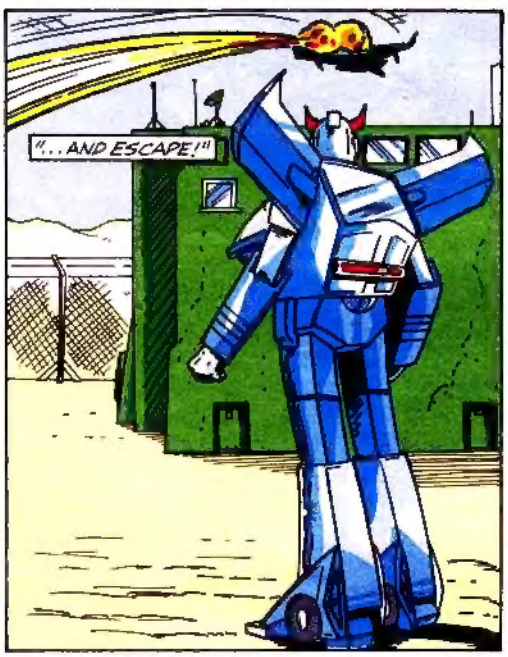

REPORTS JUST IN CONFIRM SUSPICIONS THAT THE GIANT ROBOTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SELF-STYLED CRIMINAL MASTER MIND, ROBOT-MASTER...
S.WITWICKY AUTO REPAIR TOW SERVICE
HAPPY X MAS
...WERE INVOLVED IN YESTERDAY'S SABOTAGE ATTEMPT ON A GREATER PORT-LAND CHEMICAL PLANT.
ALTHOUGH PRESENT AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK, INDUSTRIALIST G.B.BLACKROCK, HAS SO FAR DECLINED TO COMMENT...
WONDER IF, IN THE FUTURE, KIDS WILL BE STUDYING THE TRANSFORMERS WAR ON EARTH INSTEAD OF THIS "BATTLE OF YORKTOWN" STUFF I'VE GOT TO WADE THROUGH TONIGHT...
CLICK!
THAT WOULD BE ONE SUBJECT I'D STAND A CHANCE OF PASSING... DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYONE WHO KNOWS MORE ABOUT THE TRANSFORMERS THAN BUSTER WITWICKY!
NOW MAYBE I CAN CON-- HEY! THE WINDOW!
TAP-TAP
TAP-TAP
OH BOY..! THIS IS ALL I NEED!
SOMEHOW I DOUBT THAT HE'S COME TO SING CAROLS! LET'S SEE WHAT HE WANTS...

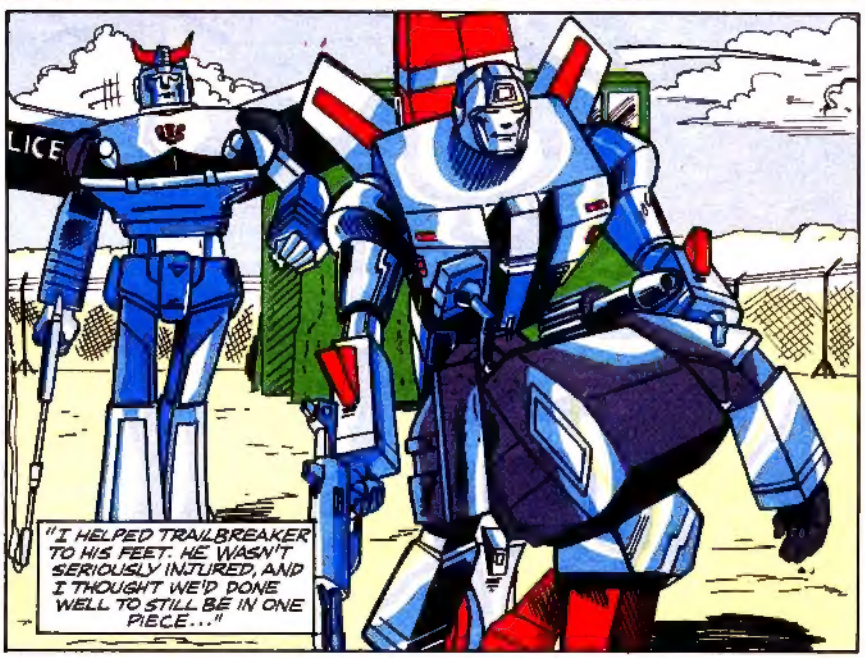

JETFIRE, I KNOW IT'S CHRISTMAS, BUT RIGHT NOW MY GOOD WILL EXTENDS ONLY TO THOSE WHO CAN HELP ME WITH THE AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE...
PARDON?
NOTHING... IT'S JUST THAT I'VE GOT AN END OF TERM HISTORY EXAM AT SCHOOL TOMORROW, AND WHAT WITH ONE DISTRACTION AFTER ANOTHER, GETTING DOWN TO SOME SERIOUS STUDYING IS PROVING A LITTLE DIFFICULT.
HAPPY XMAS
The GIFT
... WRAPPED BY JAMES HILL (SCRIPT) MARTIN GRIFFITHS (PENCILS) TIM PERKINS (INKS) ROBIN RIGGS (LETTERS) STEVE WHITE (COLOURS) AND IAN RIMMER (EDITS), WHO WOULD ALL LIKE TO WISH OUR READERS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS.
I'M SORRY, BUSTER, PERHAPS I SHOULD GO AWAY AND LET YOU CONCENTRATE.
NO... YOU'RE HERE NOW. GIMME A SECOND TO CLEAR AWAY THESE PRESENTS... WHICH I STILL HAVE TO WRAP...

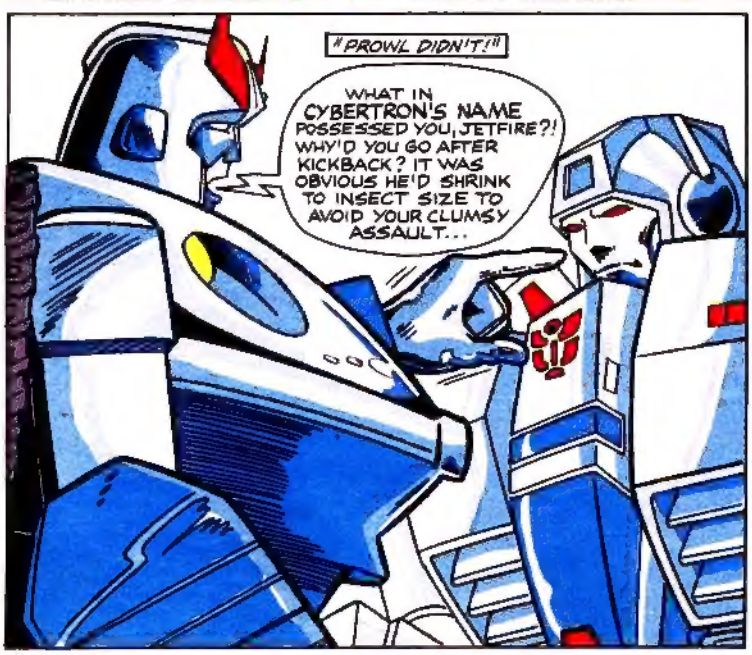

...AND COME BACK UP TO THE WINDOW SO I CAN SEE YOU BETTER...
S.WITWICKY AUTO REPAIR TOW SERVICE
YOU'RE SURE YOU DON'T MIND? I MEAN I KNOW YOUR DAD, SPARKPLUG, ISN'T TOO KEEN ON US AUTOBOTS COMING HERE AND--
Jetfire...
OH SORRY... LET ME GET TO THE POINT. SEE, I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT A PROBLEM AND I HAD HOPED YOU'D BE ABLE TO GIVE ME SOME ADVICE...
ME? WHY NOT TALK TO THE OTHER AUTOBOTS? SURELY THEY CAN HELP...
BUT THEY'RE PART OF THE PROBLEM!
THEY'RE FROM CYBERTRON AND I'M... I'M DIFFERENT! I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE PRIMAL PROGRAM, I'VE NEVER SEEN THE CELESTIAL SPIRES. I WAS MANUFACTURED AND GIVEN LIFE HERE ON EARTH... AND NEED I REMIND YOU HOW LARGE A PART YOU PLAYED IN MY CREATION.
NO... I REMEMBER.* IF YOU'RE TRYING TO CONVINCE ME I'M PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOU, THEN I GUESS YOU'VE SUCCEEDED...
* WAY BACK IN TRANSFORMERS 38.
HAPPY CHRISTMAS 86
OKAY, THEN... TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG.
WELL... I SUPPOSE THE WHOLE PROBLEM STEMS FROM SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED SHORTLY AFTER I'D MADE SEVERAL ERRORS OF JUDGEMENT DURING ALL THIS BUSINESS WITH GALVATRON.
* ISSUES 78-88.
WHEELJACK HAD BEEN LISTENING TO TELEVISION NEWS BULLETINS AND WE'D LEARNED THAT THE DECEPTICONS HAD TAKEN CONTROL OF A N.A.S.A. SPACE MONITORING FACILITY LOCATED ONLY A SHORT DISTANCE FROM MOUNT ST. HILARY. PROWL QUICKLY SUGGESTED A POSSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION...
NOW THAT TRAILBREAKER'S FIT, HE AND I COULD USE OUR VEHICLE MODES TO SLIP PAST THE POLICE CORDON. ONCE INSIDE THE BASE WE COULD ASSESS THE SITUATION AND THEN REPORT BACK TO THE ARK.

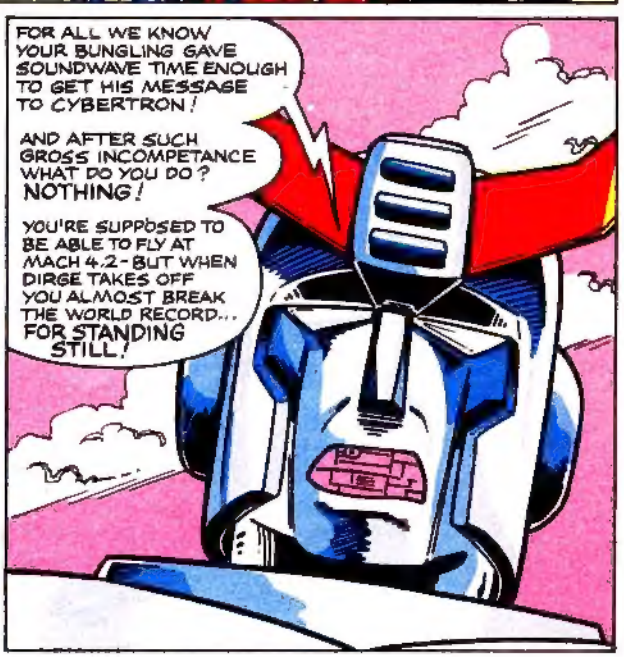

"PRIME GAVE THE GO-AHEAD AND ASKED IF I'D BE WILLING TO GO ALONG AS BACK-UP..."
GROUP LEADER PROWL CALLING AUTOBOT JETFIRE.. HAVE COME UNDER DECEPTICON ATTACK... IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE, REPEAT IN NEED OF-- BZZZT.
"IT WAS LUCKY FOR PROWL AND TRAILBREAKER THAT I DID!"
"I HURTLED TOWARDS THE N.A.S.A. BASE..."
VA-KROOM
"AND SAW THE OTHERS LOCKED IN BATTLE WITH DIRGE AND KICKBACK."
"ALONG WITH SOUNDWAVE, THEY HAD INFILTRATED THE BASE AND WERE ATTEMPTING TO MAGNIFY THE POWER OF IT'S RADIO TELESCOPE IN ORDER TO SEND A MESSAGE TO THEIR ALLIES ON CYBERTRON..."
"BUT I LEARNED THAT ONLY AFTER THE EVENT. AT THE TIME, AS I RACED TO PROWL'S AID, SUCH CONSIDERATIONS SEEMED UNIMPORTANT..."
JETFIRE... NO! GET BACK! LEAVE KICKBACK TO ME. STOP SOUNWAVE!
"LATER I TOLD PROWL THAT HIS WORDS HAD BEEN DROWNED BY THE SOUND OF LASER FIRE, BUT THAT WASN'T TRUE. I'D DELIBERATELY-FOOLISHLY-DISOBEYED HIS ORDERS. I WENT FOR KICKBACK, JUST AS HE TRANSFORMED TO INSECT MODE AND EFFECTIVELY VANISHED."
"WHILE I RECOVERED FROM THE SHOCK OF THE DECEPTICON'S SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE, DIRGE WENT TO WORK ON TRAILBREAKER..."
UUMPH!
KRANG!

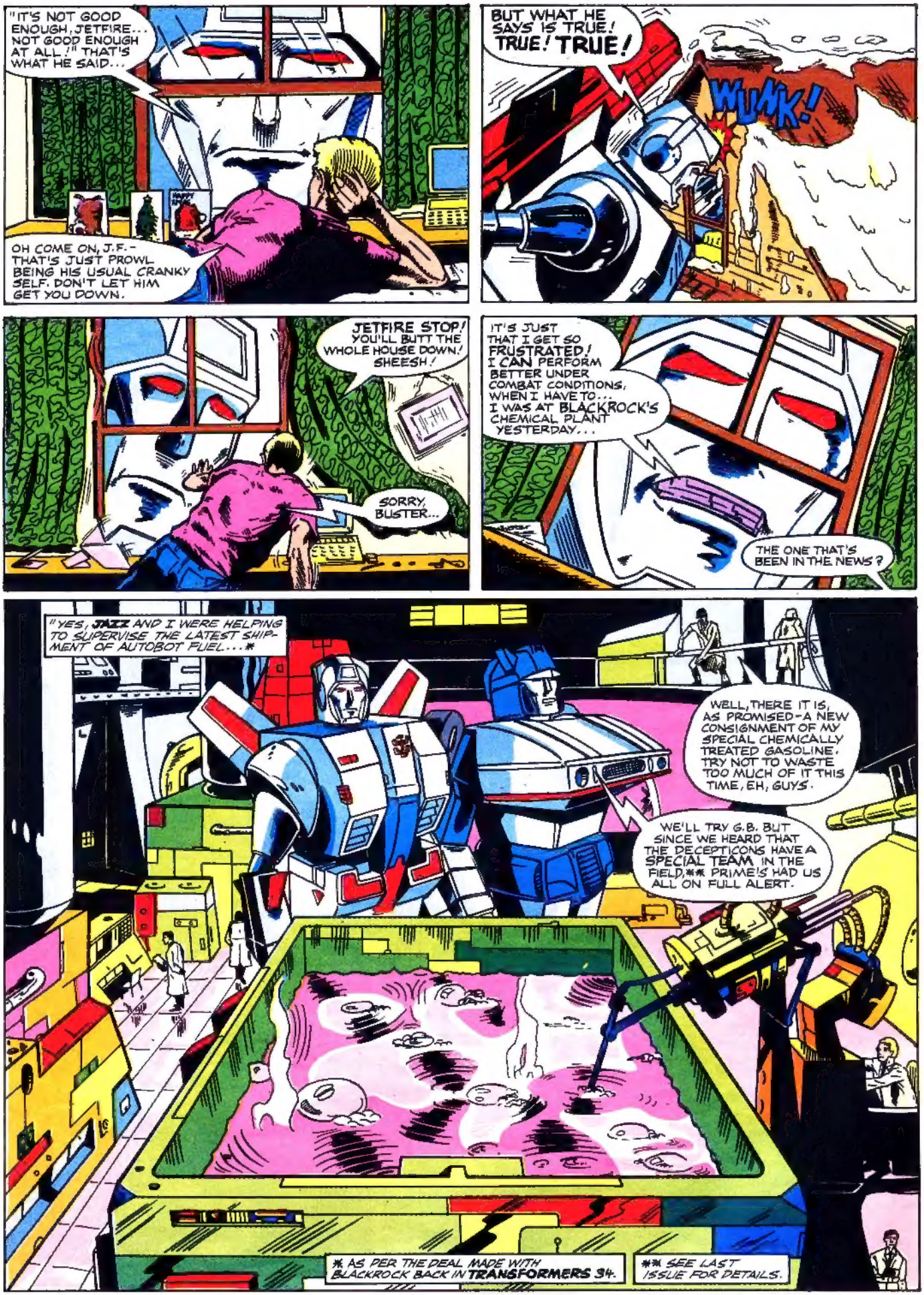

"IT TOOK ONLY A SECOND MORE FOR HIM TO TRANSFORM..."
"...PICK UP SOUNDWAVE..."


"...AND ESCAPE!"

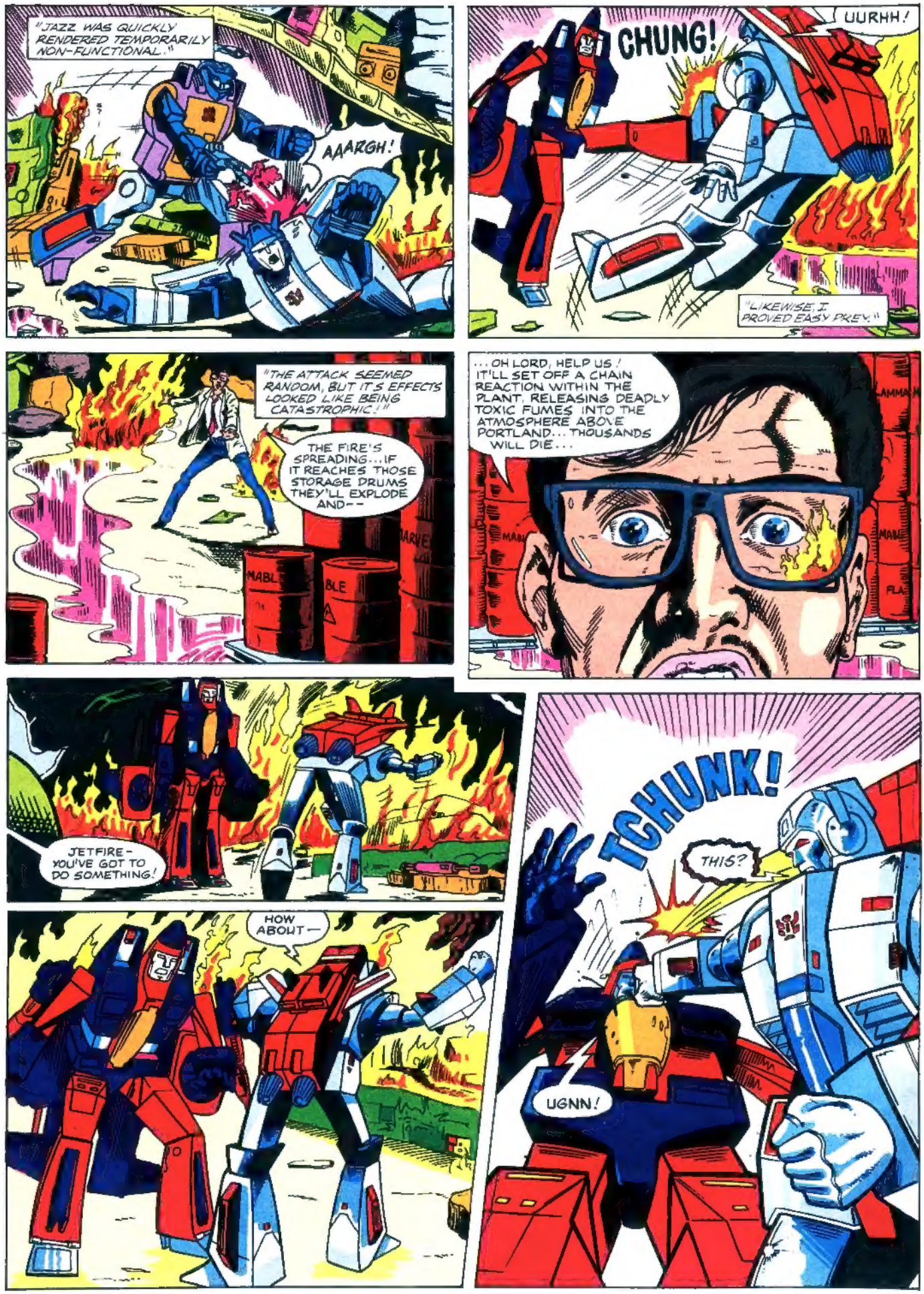

"I HELPED TRAILBREAKER TO HIS FEET. HE WASN'T SERIOUSLY INJURED, AND I THOUGHT WE'D DONE WELL TO STILL BE IN ONE PIECE..."

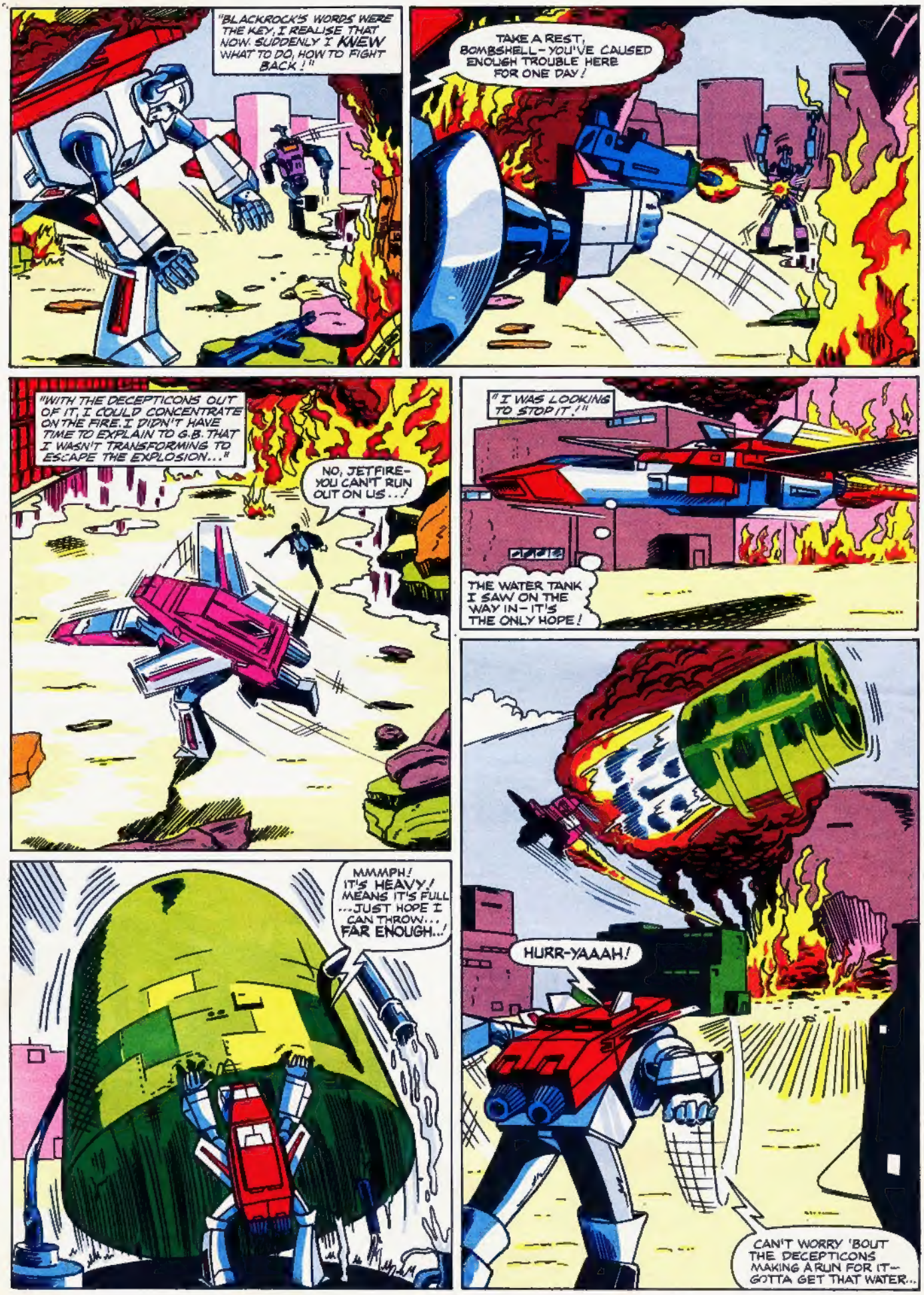

"PROWL DIDN'T!"
WHAT IN CYBERTRON'S NAME POSSESSED YOU, JETFIRE?! WHY'D YOU GO AFTER KICKBACK? IT WAS OBVIOUS HE'D SHRINK TO INSECT SIZE TO AVOID YOUR CLUMSY ASSAULT...

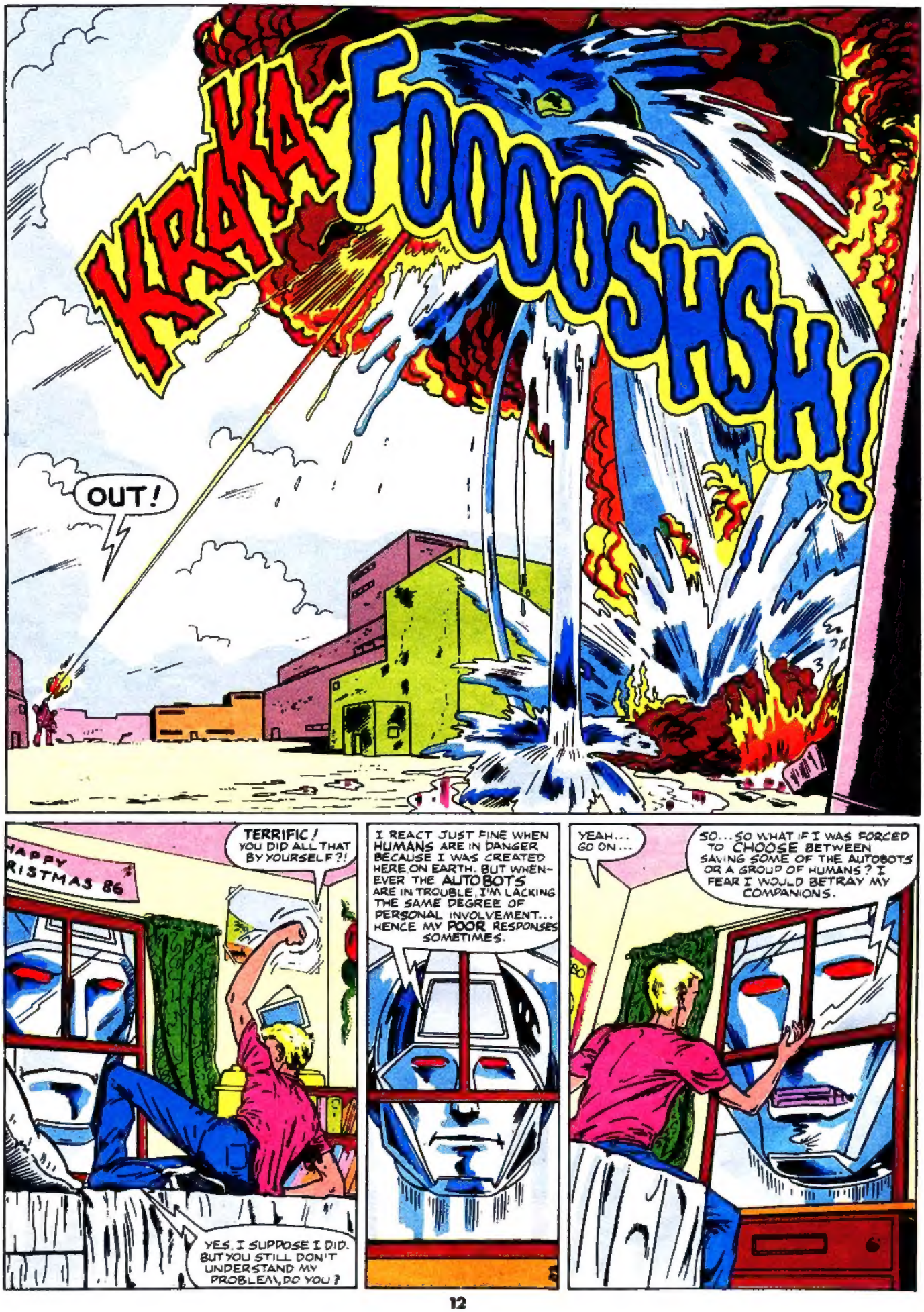

FOR ALL WE KNOW YOUR BUNGLING GAVE SOUNDWAVE TIME ENOUGH TO GET HIS MESSAGE TO CYBERTRON!
AND AFTER SUCH GROSS INCOMPETANCE WHAT DO YOU DO? NOTHING!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO FLY AT MACH 4.2 - BUT WHEN DIRGE TAKES OFF YOU ALMOST BREAK THE WORLD RECORD... FOR STANDING STILL!

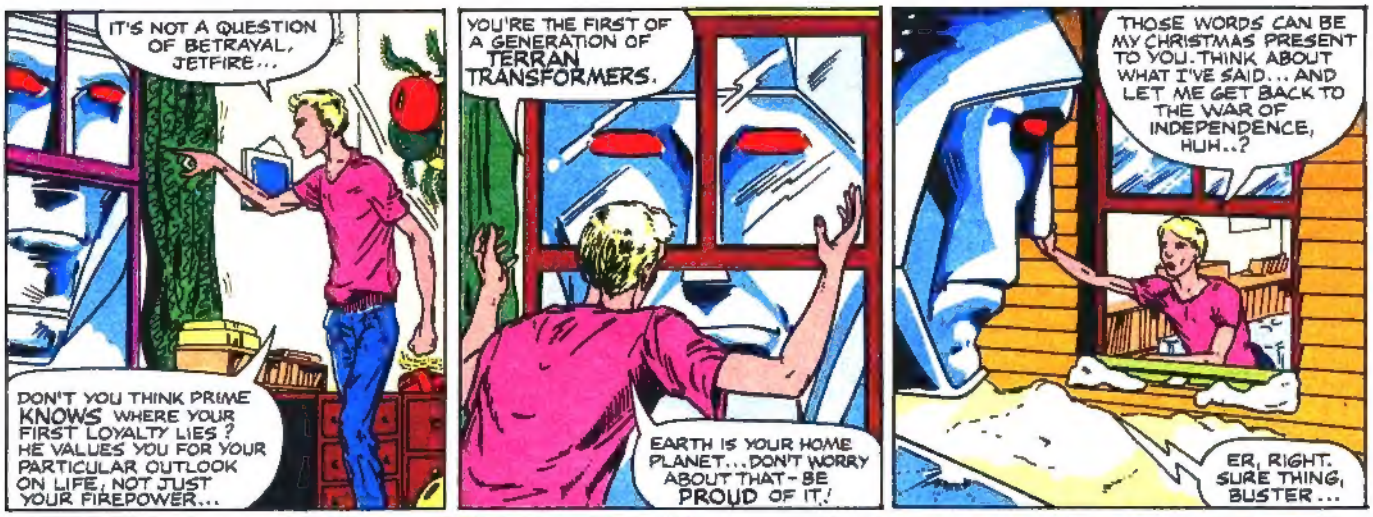

"IT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH, JETFIRE... NOT GOOD ENOUGH AT ALL!" THAT'S WHAT HE SAID...
OH COME ON, J.F.- THAT'S JUST PROWL BEING HIS USUAL CRANKY SELF. DON'T LET HIM GET YOU DOWN.
BUT WHAT HE SAYS IS TRUE! TRUE! TRUE!
WUHK!
JETFIRE STOP! YOU'LL BUTT THE WHOLE HOUSE DOWN! SHEESH!
SORRY, BUSTER...
IT'S JUST THAT I GET SO FRUSTRATED! I CAN PERFORM BETTER UNDER COMBAT CONDITIONS, WHEN I HAVE TO... I WAS AT BLACKROCK'S CHEMICAL PLANT YESTERDAY...
THE ONE THAT'S BEEN IN THE NEWS?
"YES, JAZZ AND I WERE HELPING TO SUPERVISE THE LATEST SHIPMENT OF AUTOBOT FUEL...*
WELL, THERE IT IS, AS PROMISED - A NEW CONSIGNMENT OF MY SPECIAL CHEMICALLY TREATED GASOLINE. TRY NOT TO WASTE TOO MUCH OF IT THIS TIME, EH, GUYS.
WE'LL TRY G.B. BUT SINCE WE HEARD THAT THE DECEPTICONS HAVE A SPECIAL TEAM IN THE FIELD,** PRIME'S HAD US ALL ON FULL ALERT.
* AS PER THE DEAL MADE WITH BLACKROCK BACK IN TRANSFORMERS 34.
** SEE LAST ISSUE FOR DETAILS.

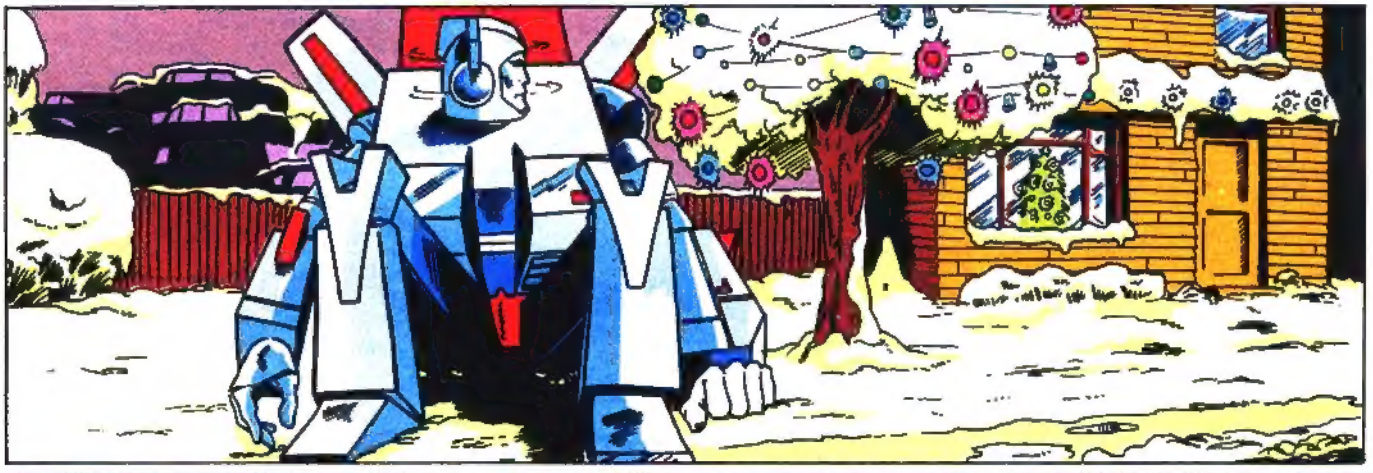
YOUR WAR WITH THE DECEPTICONS SEEMS TO BE HOTTING UP, JUDGING BY THE NUMBER OF NEW WARRIORS BOTH SIDES NOW HAVE. NO CHANCE OF A CHRISTMAS TRUCE, I GUESS...
'FRAID NOT, G.B. I'D GO FOR IT, EVEN THOUGH I'M ONLY JUST BACK IN THE GROOVE AFTER WHAT GALVATRON DID TO ME?.. BUT THE DECEPTICONS...
* TRANSFORMERS # 85.
H2O
...THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT A TRUCE IS! ANY CHANCE THEY GET...
KUSHHH!
THEY OPEN FIRE!
SHAROOM
"BOMBSHELL AND THRUST'S ATTACK TOOK US COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE. JAZZ USED HIS BODY TO SHIELD BLACKROCK FROM SERIOUS HARM BUT WE WERE BOTH BADLY STUNNED..."

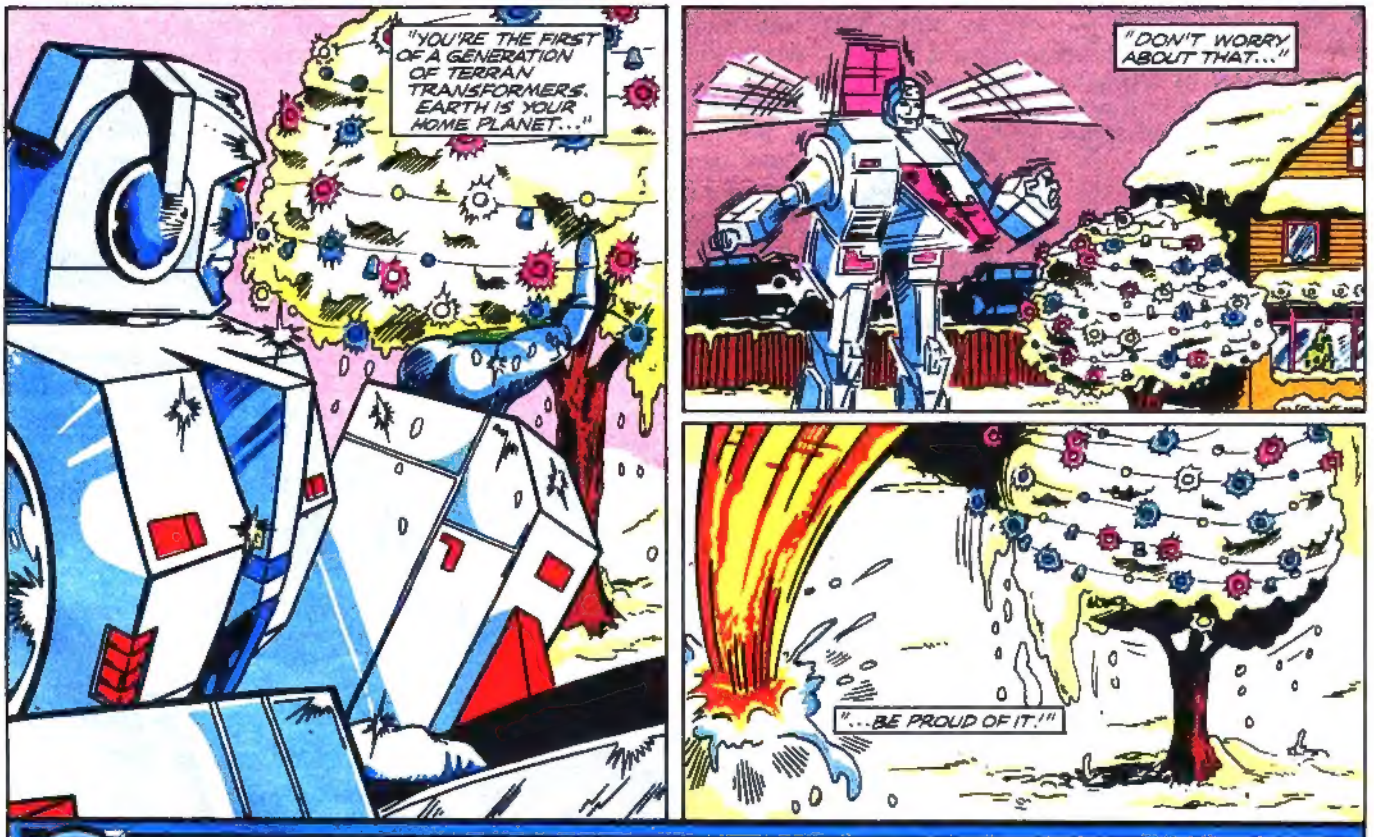

"JAZZ WAS QUICKLY RENDERED TEMPORARILY NON-FUNCTIONAL."
AAARGH!
CHUNG!
UURHH!
"LIKEWISE, I PROVED EASY PREY."
"THE ATTACK SEEMED RANDOM, BUT IT'S EFFECTS LOOKED LIKE BEING CATASTROPHIC!"
THE FIRE'S SPREADING... IF IT REACHES THOSE STORAGE DRUMS THEY'LL EXPLODE AND--
...OH LORD, HELP US! IT'LL SET OFF A CHAIN REACTION WITHIN THE PLANT, RELEASING DEADLY TOXIC FUMES INTO THE ATMOSPHERE ABOVE PORTLAND... THOUSANDS WILL DIE...
JETFIRE - YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
TCHUNK!
THIS?
UGNN!
HOW ABOUT--


"BLACKROCK'S WORDS WERE THE KEY, I REALISE THAT NOW. SUDDENLY I KNEW WHAT TO DO, HOW TO FIGHT BACK!"
TAKE A REST, BOMBSHELL - YOU'VE CAUSED ENOUGH TROUBLE HERE FOR ONE DAY!
"WITH THE DECEPTICONS OUT OF IT, I COULD CONCENTRATE ON THE FIRE. I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN TO G.B. THAT I WASN'T TRANSFORMING TO ESCAPE THE EXPLOSION..."
NO, JETFIRE - YOU CAN'T RUN OUT ON US...!
"I WAS LOOKING TO STOP IT."!
THE WATER TANK I SAW ON THE WAY IN - IT'S THE ONLY HOPE!
MMMPH! IT'S HEAVY! MEANS IT'S FULL ...JUST HOPE I CAN THROW... FAR ENOUGH...!
HURR-YAAAH!
CAN'T WORRY 'BOUT THE DECEPTICONS MAKING A RUN FOR IT - GOTTA GET THAT WATER...


KRA-KA-FOOOOSHSH!
OUT!
HAPPY RISTMAS 86
TERRIFIC! YOU DID ALL THAT BY YOURSELF?!
YES, I SUPPOSE I DID. BUT YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND MY PROBLEM, DO YOU?
I REACT JUST FINE WHEN HUMANS ARE IN DANGER BECAUSE I WAS CREATED HERE ON EARTH. BUT WHENEVER THE AUTOBOTS ARE IN TROUBLE, I'M LACKING THE SAME DEGREE OF PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT... HENCE MY POOR RESPONSES SOMETIMES.
YEAH... GO ON...
SO... SO WHAT IF I WAS FORCED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN SAVING SOME OF THE AUTOBOTS OR A GROUP OF HUMANS? I FEAR I WOULD BETRAY MY COMPANIONS.


IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF BETRAYAL, JETFIRE...
DON'T YOU THINK PRIME KNOWS WHERE YOUR FIRST LOYALTY LIES? HE VALUES YOU FOR YOUR PARTICULAR OUTLOOK ON LIFE, NOT JUST YOUR FIREPOWER...
YOU'RE THE FIRST OF A GENERATION OF TERRAN TRANSFORMERS.
EARTH IS YOUR HOME PLANET...DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT - BE PROUD OF IT.
THOSE WORDS CAN BE MY CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO YOU. THINK ABOUT WHAT I'VE SAID... AND LET ME GET BACK TO THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, HUH..?
ER, RIGHT. SURE THING, BUSTER...




"YOU'RE THE FIRST OF A GENERATION OF TERRAN TRANSFORMERS. EARTH IS YOUR HOME PLANET..."
"DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT..."
"...BE PROUD OF IT!"

NEXT: DECEPTICON GRAFFITI!